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THE PROMETHIUM EXCHANGE PART 1 OF 3

# EXCALIBUR



**DRAGONS,  
DEMONS  
AND**

**DOCTOR  
DOOM**

**50  
YEARS**



**OF  
CAPTAIN AMERICA**  
**1941 - 1991**

THE POWERFUL CAPTAIN BRITAIN, THE SHAPE-CHANGING MEGGAN, THE INTANGIBLE SHADOWCAT, THE SWASHBUCKLING NIGHTERAWLER, THE MYSTERIOUS PHOENIX, THE EVER-UNPREDICTABLE WIDGET AND LOCKHEED THE DRAGON FORGED IN THE FIRES OF THEIR TRAGIC PASTS, THEY HAVE BANNED TOGETHER TO FIGHT A MODERN DAY CRUSADE AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL!



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IF YOU HAD A BUTLER  
THIS WOULDN'T HAPPEN.

THE AVENGERS  
HAVE A BUTLER.

WHY DON'T  
YOU GET A  
BUTLER?

I THOUGHT EVERYONE  
IN ENGLAND HAD A  
BUTLER.

WHEW?

A NANNY IS MORE LIKE  
IT-- TO NURSEMAID YOU  
CRAZY YANKS!



NO!  
NO!  
NO!  
NO!  
NO!

THAT'S MY  
FAVORITE  
CUP!

BRIAN,  
GROW  
UP!

YOU'RE A  
SUPER  
HERO.

SUPER HEROES  
DON'T HAVE  
FAVORITE CUPS.



THANKS,  
LOCKHEED!

THANK YOU ALL  
FOR BEING SO  
SUPPORTIVE.

I'VE NEVER COOKED  
PANGAKES BEFORE

BUT THEN-- I'VE NEVER  
COOKED ANYTHING BEFORE



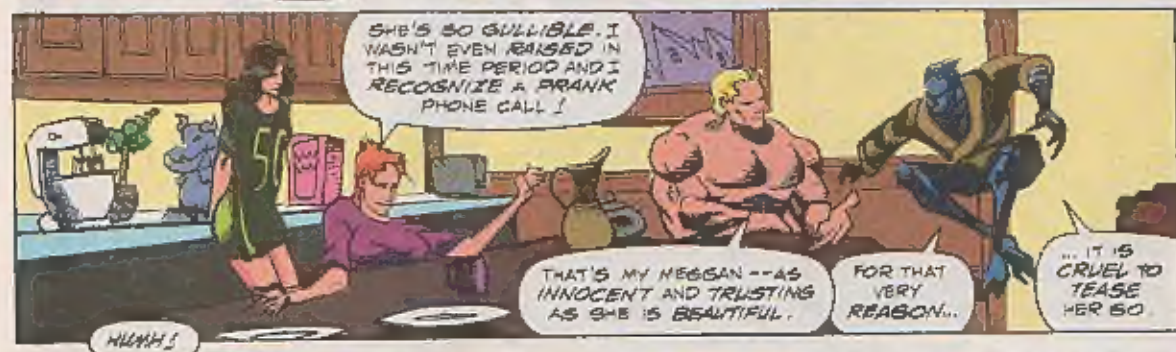
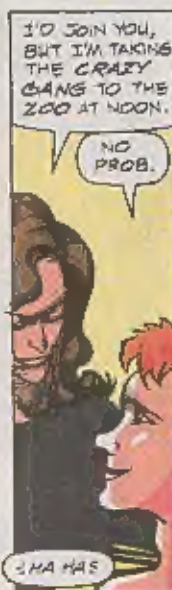
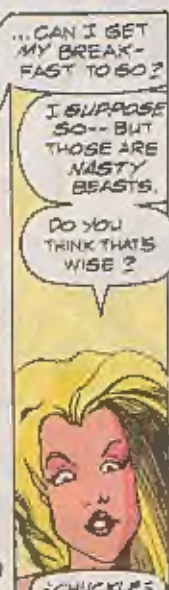
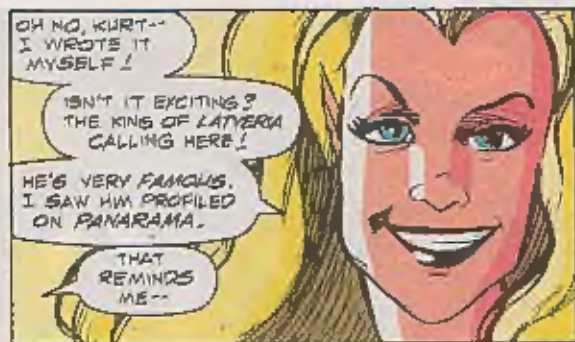
SO WHO'S FIRST?

LOVE TO--  
BUT I'M...  
ALLERGIC.

TO EGGS?

TO AN  
OPEN  
FLAME.

GIVE 'EM HERE, MEGGAN. IF  
I CAN SURVIVE THE WAR-  
WOLVES, I CAN PROBABLY  
SURVIVE YOUR FIRST  
PANGAKE



HELLO.

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THOSE  
I HAVE YET TO MEET, I AM...

DOCTOR  
DOOM

Stan Lee  
PRESENTS:

EXCALIBUR

IN

HOUSE  
CALL

BOOK ONE OF  
"THE PROMETHIUM EXCHANGE"

BY SCOTT LOBBELL AND  
MARK BADGER DOING  
THAT STORY THING, CHRIS  
ELIOPoulos AND GYNNIS  
OLIVER LETTERS AND  
MUES, TERRY NAVANAGH  
ON BASS AND TOM  
DEFALCO ON LEAD VOCALS.

EXCALIBUR  
CREATED BY  
CLAREMONT  
AND DAVIS

HE  
CERTAINLY  
IS!

COSTUMES  
ANYONE?!

THANKS FOR THE  
TELEKINETIC ASSIST,  
PHOENIX-- WE HAVE  
TO BE READY FOR  
ANYTHING!

DU SO!

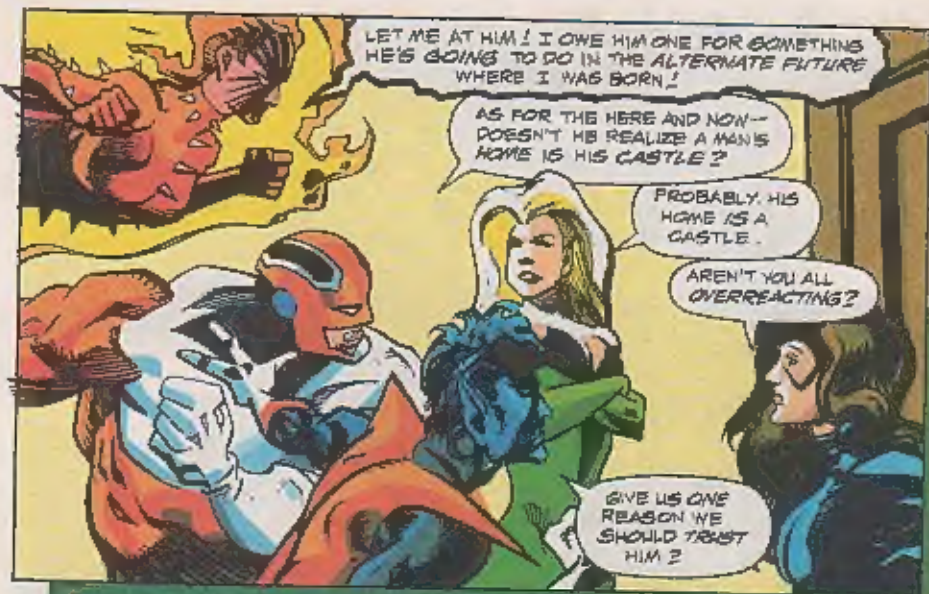
TOLD YOU SO!

TOLD YOU SO!

TOLD YOU SO! TOLD!

CORRECTION!  
I HAVE TO BE  
READY FOR  
ANYTHING!

HE CALLED  
TO TALK TO  
ME!



LET ME AT HIM! I OWE HIM ONE FOR SOMETHING HE'S GOING TO DO IN THE ALTERNATE FUTURE WHERE I WAS BORN!

AS FOR THE HERE AND NOW-- DOESN'T HE REALIZE A MAN'S HOME IS HIS CASTLE?

PROBABLY. HIS HOME IS A CASTLE.

AREN'T YOU ALL OVERREACTING?

GIVE US ONE REASON WE SHOULD TRUST HIM?

IT'S NOT LIKE HE AMBUSHED US. I MEAN--

--HE DID CALL.

WE CAN AT LEAST HEAR HIM OUT.

UH... WHAT'S UP, DOC? I TAKE IT THIS ISN'T ABOUT MY TWO THOUSAND MILE CHECKUP. I'M STILL UNDER WARRANTY, AREN'T I?

SO TO SPEAK.

WHILE I CONFESS TO BEING CURIOUS AS TO YOUR CONDITION SINCE I SAVED YOUR LIFE... X

...IT IS I WHO REQUIRES YOUR ASSISTANCE NOW.

THERE EXISTS A MYSTICAL METAL KNOWN AS PROMETHIUM. AS AN ENERGY SOURCE, IT IS INEXHAUSTIBLE AND WASTE-FREE. IT WOULD MEAN THE END OF EARTH'S ENERGY CRISIS. FOREVER.

RAD! SO WHAT DO YOU NEED YOUR FAVORITE EX-PATENT FOR?

UNFORTUNATELY, IT IS LOCATED IN THE ROCKET DIMENSION SO QUANTITALLY REFERRED TO AS "LIMBO."

AND YOU, CHILD, ARE MY SOLE MEANS OF ENTRANCE TO THE MYSTICAL DOMAIN.

I NEED YOU TO DRAW THE SOULSWORD!

MAGIK'S SOULSWORD-- THE ONE IMBEDDED IN FRONT OF THE LIGHT-HOUSE?!

IS THERE ANOTHER?

HE'S KIDDING, JA?

OR DOOM ISN'T RENOWNED FOR HIS SENSE OF HUMOR.

LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT.





THANK YOU...

I THINK I WILL

MMMMMM--  
LET'S SEE...

...CHILDHOOD SPENT  
AS A GYPSY FUGITIVE  
FROM LATVERIAN  
AUTHORITIES...

...THE ACCIDENT  
THAT SCARRED  
YOU...

...TUTELAGE UNDER  
TIBETAN MONKS  
AND THE CREATION  
OF YOUR ARMOR...

...YOUR ASCENSION  
TO THE LATVERIAN  
THRONE...

...AND YOUR RECENT  
ATTEMPTS AT WORLD  
DOMINATION BASED  
ON A DEEP-ROOTED  
NEED TO SERVE THE  
PEOPLE OF EARTH  
AS THEIR NATURAL  
LEADER.

I SENSE  
ARROGANCE...

...THE FORCED SOLITUDE  
OF LEADERSHIP.

BUT NOPE, NO REAL  
EVIL, PER SE.

ARE YOU SURE?!

I'M THE  
PHOENIX,  
CELESTIAL  
AVATAR.  
I KNOW  
EVIL.

HE'S  
CLEAN.

OKAY--SHE  
CAN GO.

BUT A MINUTE  
AGO YOU SAID--

THAT WAS A  
MINUTE AGO...

SHHHHH!

SHHHHH  
WHAT?

"SHHHHH"  
AS IN  
"SHUSH"

AND SO IT CAME TO PASS THAT DOOM, IN FRONT OF THE LIGHT-HOUSE EXCALIBUR CALLS HOME...

SCIENCE AND SPELL-WEAVING... IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN'T DO?

KNIT I FIND IT TOO REPETITIOUS.

WAS THAT A JOKE?

CAN WE GO OVER EXACTLY WHAT IT IS I'M SUPPOSED TO DO? AGAIN.

WITH THIS MINOR SPELL, I AM ONLY WEAKENING THE MYSTICAL BARRIER BETWEEN OUR DIMENSION AND THE NEXT.

AS THE ONLY LIVING BEINGS WHO CAN DRAW THE SOWLSWORD-- THE EMBODIMENT OF YOUR FORMER COMRADE'S MAGICAL MIGHT-- YOU CAN CLEAVE THE BARRIER IN TWO.

BRIAN--IS THIS THE RIGHT THING TO DO?

IF DOOM WANTS INTO MAGIK'S LIMBO, HE'LL GET IN. THIS WAY WE CAN AT LEAST KEEP TABS ON HIM.

\*KITTY INHERITED IT IN EXCALIBUR #7 WHEN MAGIK REVERTED TO A TODDLER AFTER THE INFERNO STORY-LINE.--T.K.

THIS WILL ALLOW US TO TRAVEL VIA A POCKET DIMENSION AND ENTER LIMBO UNDETECTED BY ITS DEMONIC DENIZENS.



I HATE THIS PART. WHENEVER I WIELD THIS SWORD, I'M UNACCOUNTABLY SWATHED IN THIS WEIRD ARMOR.

NO OFFENSE.

RESET YOU GUYS READY BACK THERE?



IS WIDGET HOOKED UP?

ALMOST LET'S HOPE KITTY'S DIMENSIONAL FINE TUNER STILL WORKS!\*

HEY, GUYS DID I MISS BREAK-FAST?

\*AS CREATED IN ISSUE #20--T.K



SORRY, AUSTAIR-- DR. DOOM ARRIVED AND TALKED KITTY INTO A CROSS-DIMENSIONAL MINING EXPEDITION IN LIMBO AND GUESS WHO HAS TO CHAPERONE?

NO NEED FOR SARCASM-- I APOLOGIZE FOR BEING LATE!



SO HOW IS IT YOU KNOW  
SO MUCH ABOUT LIMBO  
AND THE SOULSWORD AND  
PROMETHIUM AND JUST  
ABOUT EVERYTHING?

IT WAS ALL COVERED  
IN BUT ONE OF THE  
CHAPTERS OF THE ARCANIE  
BOOK OF THE DARK-  
HOLD.

WHY DO I  
FIND THAT  
LESS THAN  
REASSURING.



SO HOW AM  
I DOING FOR  
A NOVICE?

YOU'RE  
DOING  
WELL.

FOR A  
NOVICE.



AND  
THEY'RE  
OFF.

LET'S  
NOT DALLY,  
LUV!



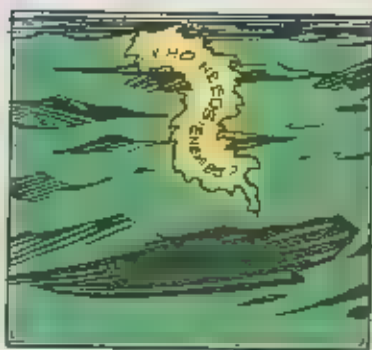
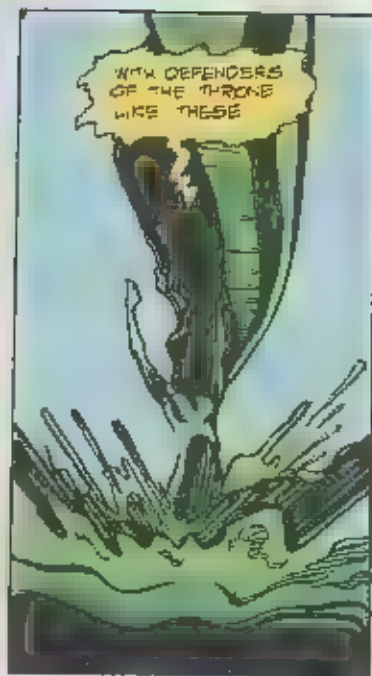
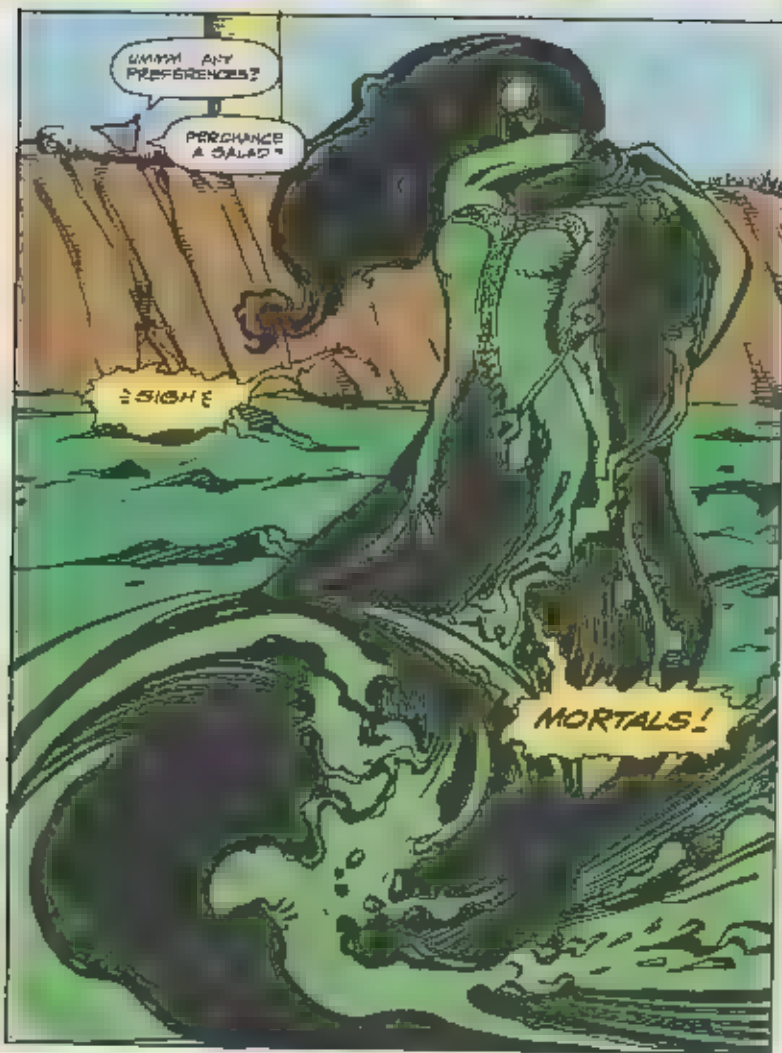
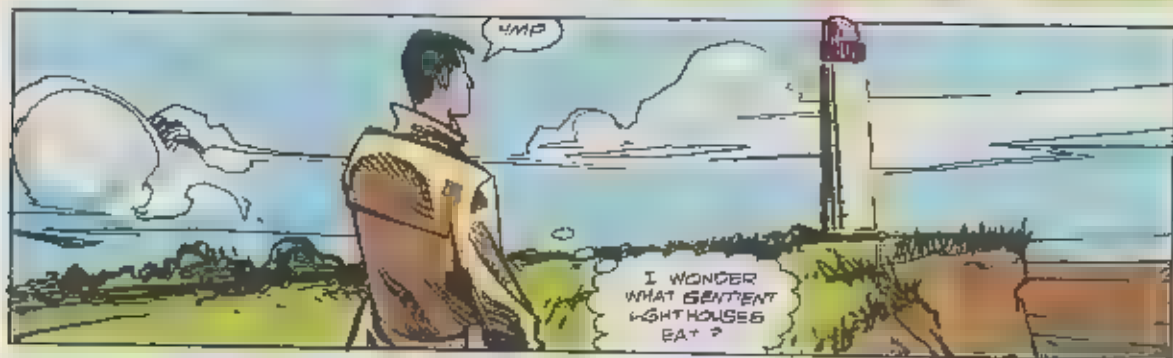
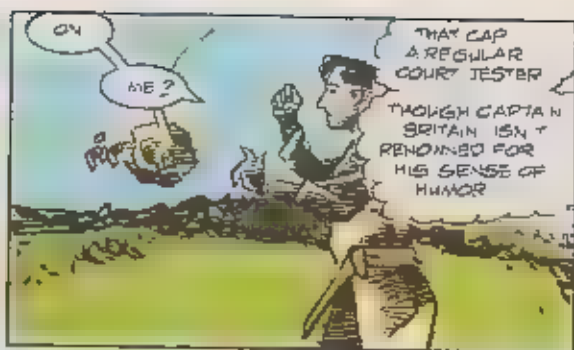
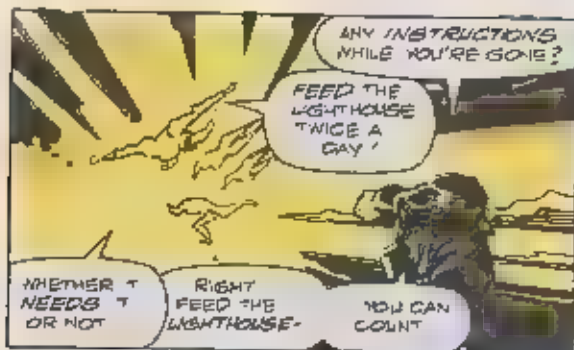
ARE YOU SURE WE  
CAN FOLLOW THEM?

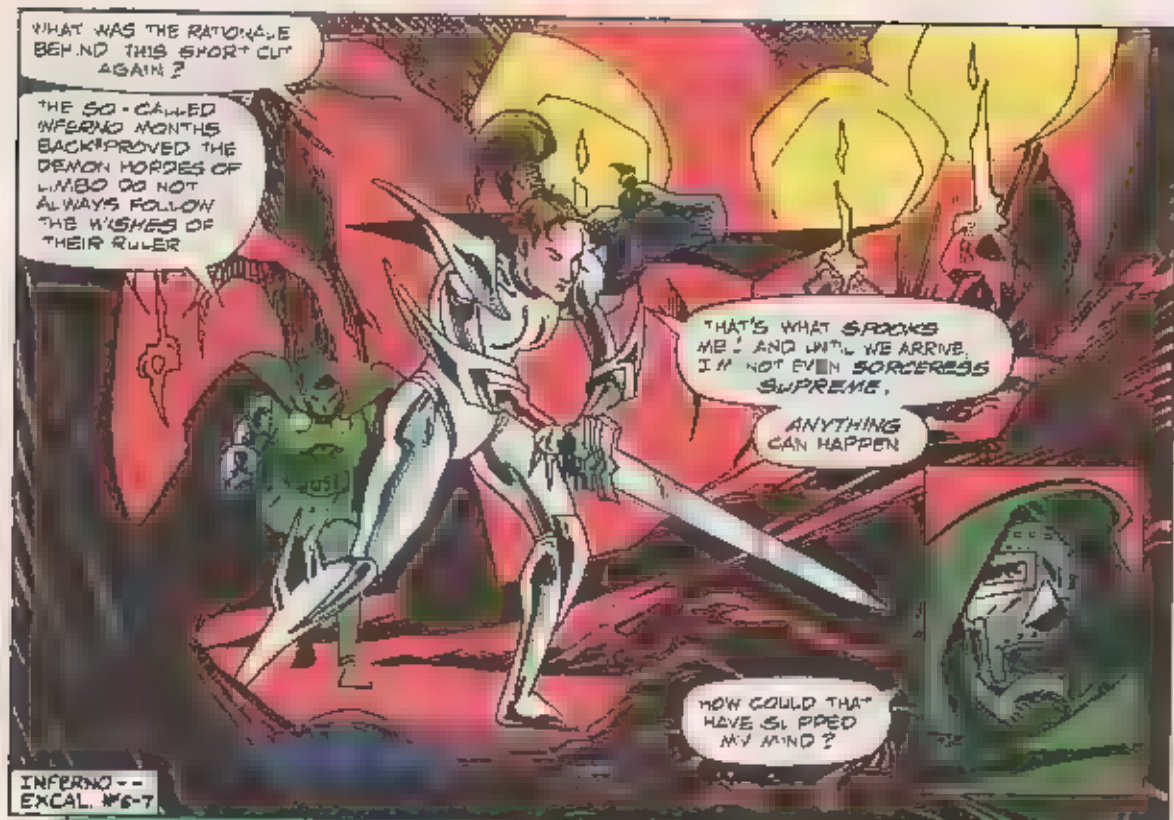
LORD AND  
WIDGET  
WILLING.

QUICKLY BEFORE HE  
LOSES THEIR "SCENT".

SCHELL!  
SCHELL!

I SUPPOSE THIS  
MEANS BREAKFAST  
IS OFF?





WHAT WAS THE RATIONALE  
BEHIND THIS SHORT CUT  
AGAIN?

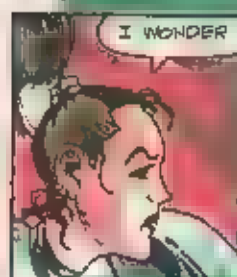
THE SO-CALLED  
INFERNO MONTHS  
BACKPROVED THE  
DEMON HORDES OF  
LIMBO DO NOT  
ALWAYS FOLLOW  
THE WISHES OF  
THEIR RULER

THAT'S WHAT SPOOKS  
ME! AND UNTIL WE ARRIVE,  
I'M NOT EVEN SORCERESS  
SUPREME.

ANYTHING  
CAN HAPPEN

HOW COULD THAT  
HAVE SLIPPED  
MY MIND?

INFERNO--  
EXCAL. #6-7



I WONDER



JUST REMEMBER  
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS  
TO ME, YOU'LL BE  
STUCK--

LOOK OUT

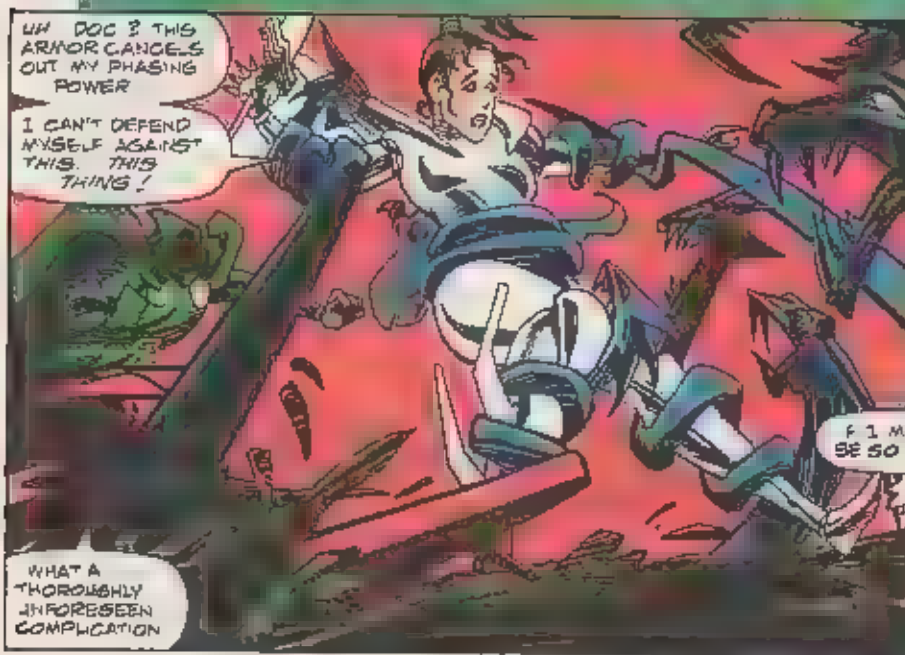


BEEEEK!

YRONL

YRONL

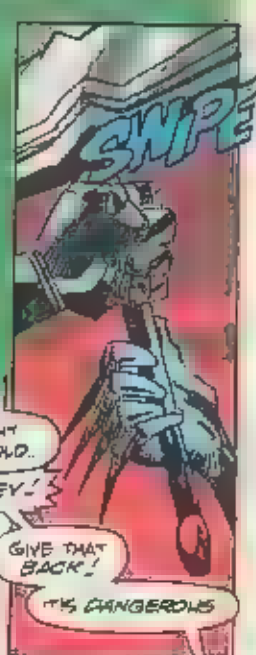
YRONL



UH DOC? THIS  
ARMOR CANCELS  
OUT MY PHASING  
POWER

I CAN'T DEFEND  
MYSELF AGAINST  
THIS. THIS  
THING!

WHAT A  
THOROUGHLY  
UNFORESEEN  
COMPLICATION



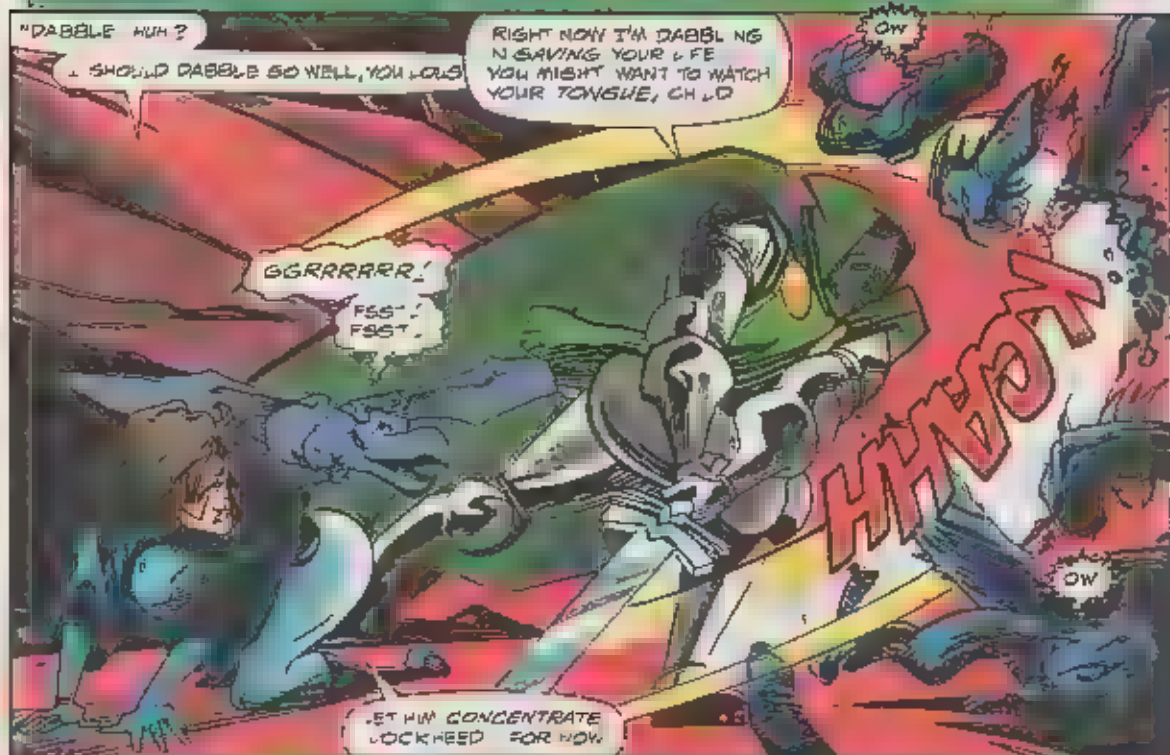
SWIPE

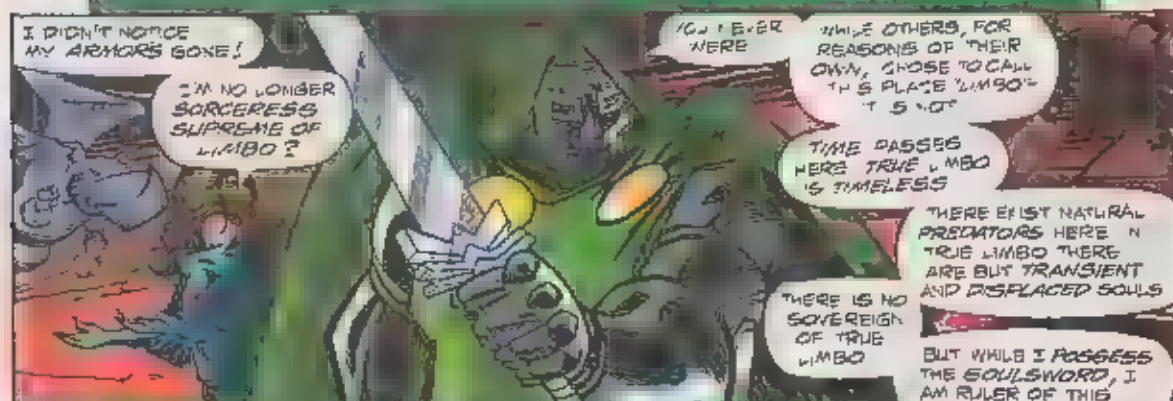
IF I MIGHT  
BE SO BOLD.

HEY!

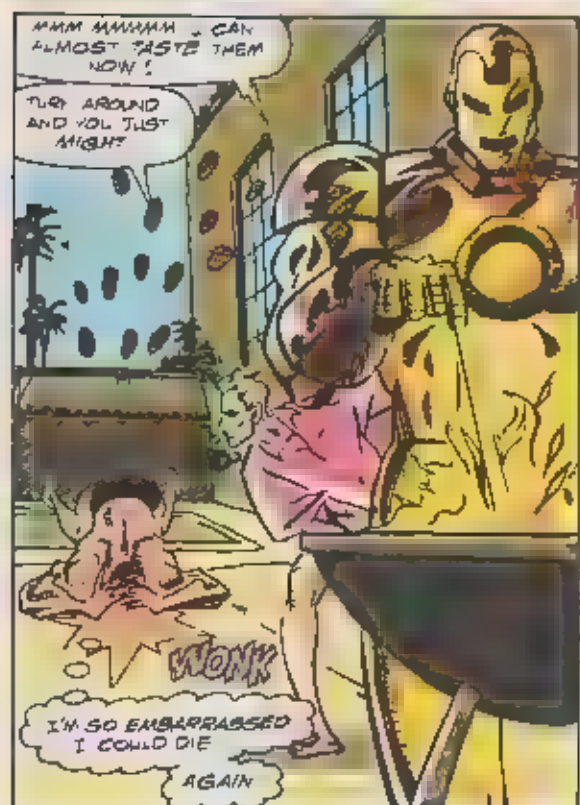
GIVE THAT  
BACK!

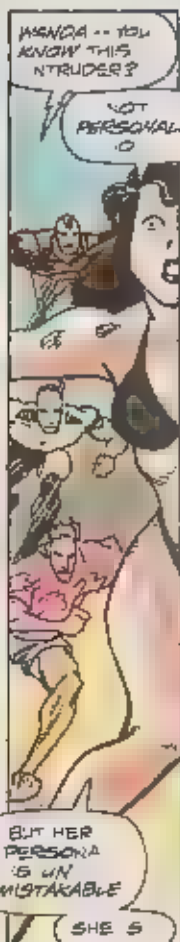
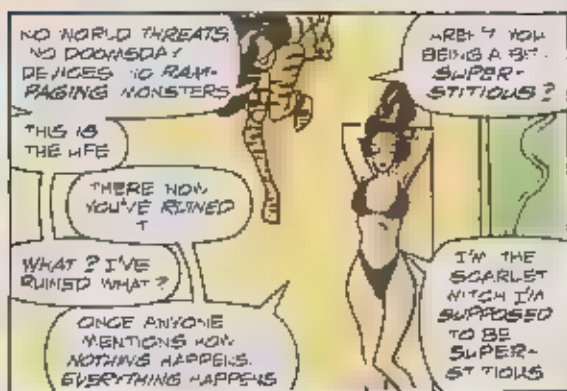
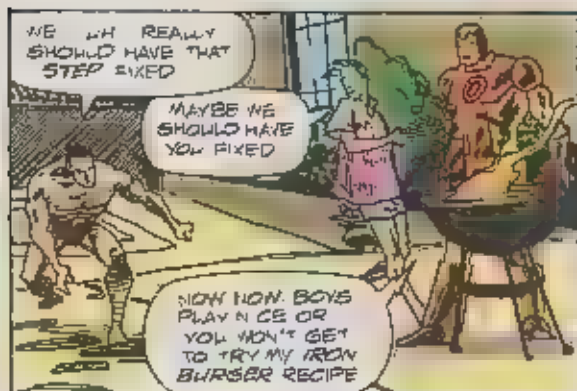
IT'S DANGEROUS











THE LADY OF THE LAKE?  
THE ONE WHO ONLY APPEARS  
N TIMES OF ENGLAND'S  
DARKEST HOURS?!

IS THERE  
ANOTHER?

I HAVE TRAVERSED  
THE WORLD TO ENLIST  
THE AID OF RON  
MAN - HE WHO HAS  
CHAMPIONED THE GREAT-  
ER ISLE OF BRITAIN  
IN TIMES PAST &

MOST RECENTLY IN  
IRON MAN #250 TK

ONCE AGAIN, YOUR  
ADVERSARY - DR  
DOOM - THREATENS  
THE WELFARE OF  
MY PEOPLE

DESPITE THEIR  
BEST INTENTIONS,  
THE DEFENDERS  
OF THE REALM  
KNOWN AS  
EXCALBUR ARE  
HIS UNWITTING  
PAWNS

IF HE IS TO  
SUCCEED IN HIS  
WATERS BID FOR  
WORLD DOMINATIO...

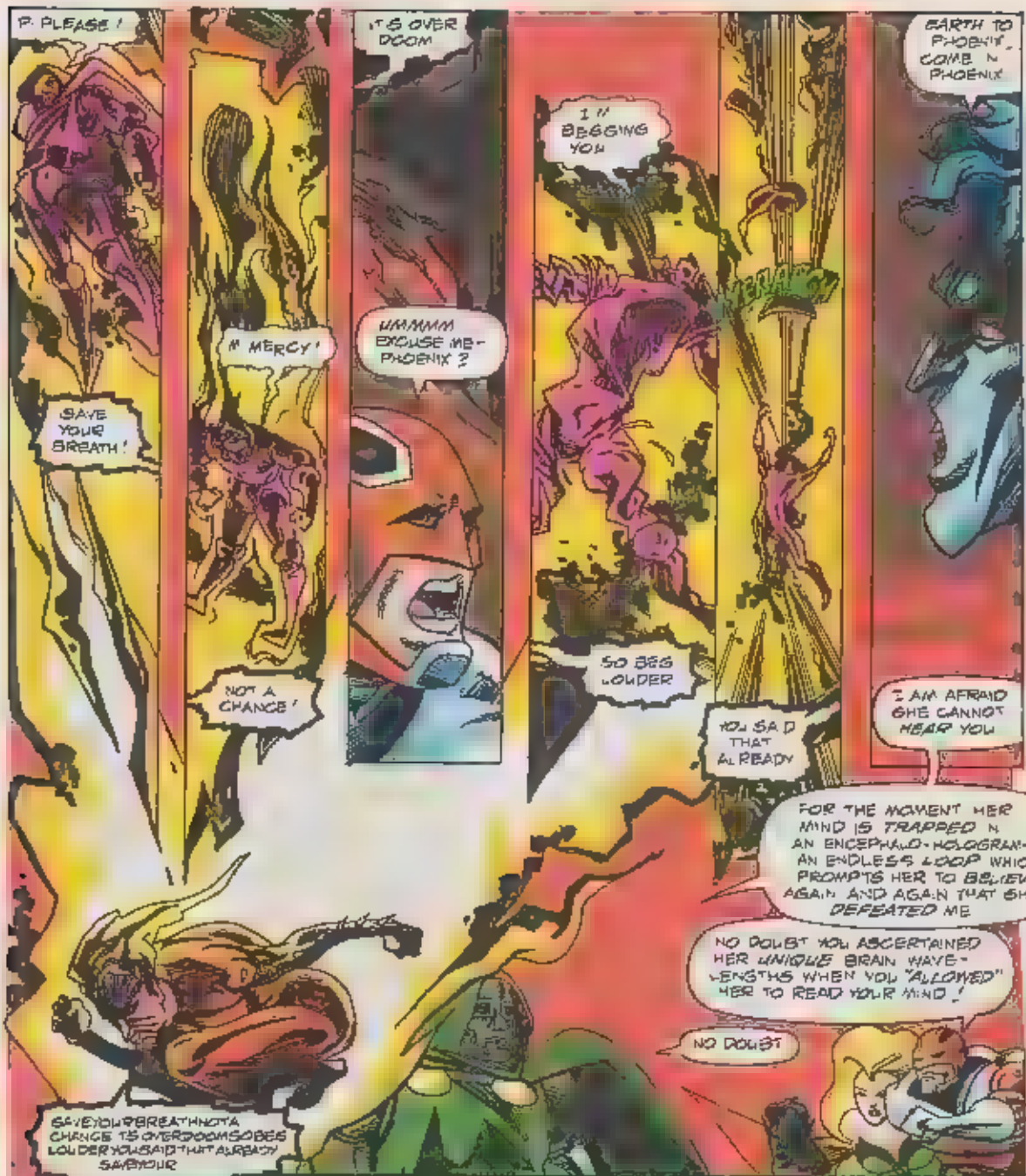
IT WILL BEGIN  
WITH THE TOTAL  
OBLITERATION  
OF ENGLAND

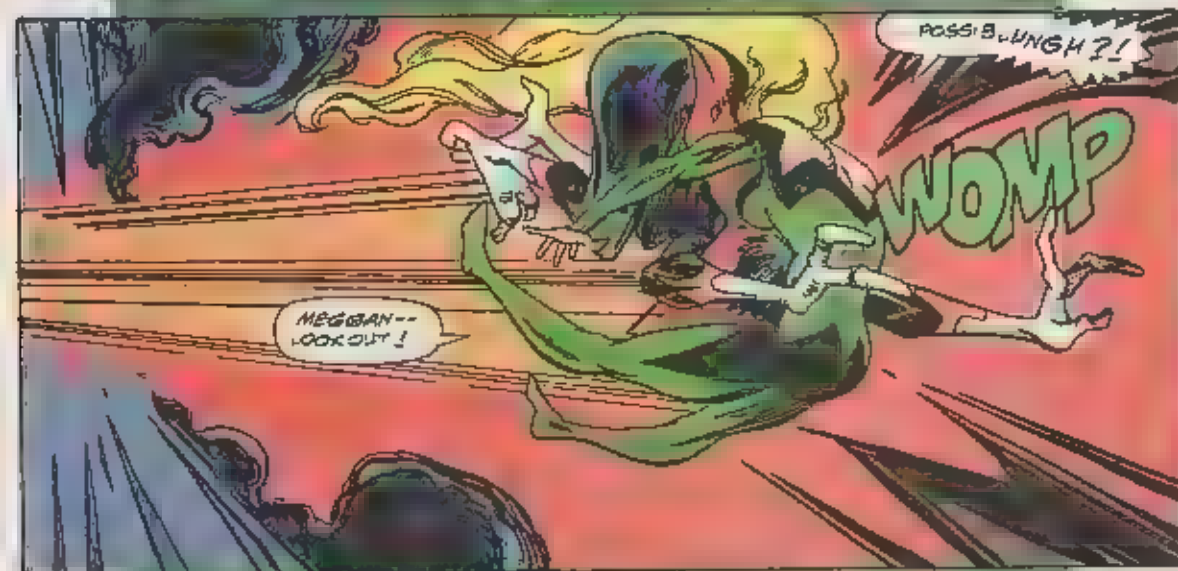
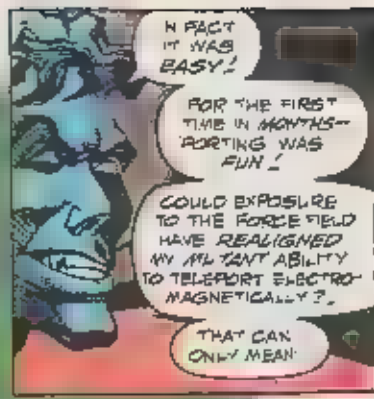
SO - ANYBODY W/ FOR  
A TRIP TO THE OTHER  
SIDE OF THE POND?

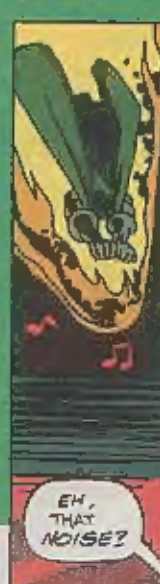
I SUPPOSE  
THIS MEANS  
LUNCH IS OFF?

IN ANOTHER PLACE, AT THE SAME MOMENT

YAAARCH









**KATOOM**

MOMENTS LATER,  
AFTER THE GROUND  
HAS STOPPED  
SHAKING AND THE  
SMOKE BEGINS  
TO CLEAR...

HE'S STILL  
STANDING?!

ENOUGH! I CAN  
NOT ALLOW YOU TO  
FURTHER DISRUPT  
MY PLANS!

AS MY AMERICAN  
TEAMMATES ARE  
WONT TO SAY...

... YOU AND  
WHAT--

--ARMY?

WOULDA  
BELIEVE--



--THIS  
ONE?

SO,  
VIC...

YOU GONNA  
INTRODUCE  
US TO YOUR  
BUDDY OR  
WHAT?!

YOU UNDERSTAND  
YOUR UNCONDITIONAL  
SURRENDER IS NO  
LONGER AN OPTION.

SURELY.

TO BE CONTINUED...

# SWORD STROKES

MARVEL COMICS GROUP  
387 Park Avenue South  
New York, New York 10016

TERRY KAVANAGH  
EDITOR  
KELLY CORVESE  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: If you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Sword Strokes,

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the creators of the latest issue of EXCALIBUR (Issue #31). Nightcrawler has been long overdue for a solo story in this mag, and this story filled that slot admirably. The story was marvelous, and the lighthearted feel was a great touch. Even the little made me chuckle. I'm also glad to see that Nightcrawler's getting his old resiliency back. I'm eagerly anticipating the day when he can finally perform the classic "multiple port" maneuver again.

I sincerely hope that some of the dangling plotlines that have been plaguing this little will soon be resolved (bring back Kitty!). I would also like to see Amanda Sefton grace the pages of this magazine.

As a closing note, I'd like to make a suggestion — how about a Lockheed solo story?

Till Gilligan and the Skipper visit Wagner's Isle, Make Mine Marvel!

Ted Spas  
606 N. Jackson  
Helena, MT 59601

**Lots of EXCALIBUR readers agree with you, Ted! The funny blue fellow is one popular mutant! Read on!**

Excalibur,

Thank you, thank you, thank you. I'm serious. I haven't read a comic book as good as EXCALIBUR #31 in a long time. I have to admit, at first I wasn't too anxious to read it, but you guys really brought it home. Oh heck, even if you don't print this letter (although it would be pretty cool), I just want you to know that I loved that book. I guess I just really missed seeing Nightcrawler in action without fainting instead of saying hilarious quips.

Once again, thank you.

J. Champion  
Edinburg, TX

Thank you, J.!

Glad to hear that so many of you out there enjoyed seeing Nightcrawler strut his stuff — solo! But, just to be fair, we'd like to present the other side's opinion. (Never let it be said that Sword Strokes doesn't also represent the minority!)

Dear People,

RE: EXCALIBUR #31

Wow, what a story. The Son of Krakoa! The vacuity of the Vega-men. What excitement, what suspense, YAAWWWWN! What trash.

I can't believe that Phoenix could see "mom" and then not try to find out what happened or at least how the dead Jean Grey could be alive. But maybe I can believe it. This book has been full of holes and loose ends for years.

I got this book because I have always liked the idea of EXCALIBUR but I am still waiting for it to achieve any part of the vast potential

I saw in the book. Come on, guys, get with the program.

James Minton  
120 Suzanne Ct.  
Gaston, SC 29053

**Fear not, James, all of the dangling plot threads will soon be resolved spectacularly — with Alan Davis's triumphant return to EXCALIBUR as of issue #41!**

Dear EXCALIBUR,

Just thought I'd comment on issue #31. It's one story I've been waiting for — Nightcrawler, in his own solo story (sort of).

The idea of Krakoa's spores was great. Just a few complaints, though — I thought he died too easily (Krakoa's son) and the story should have gone on to two issues! A story like that deserves it.

By the way, the art work was very, very good. I've never seen Nightcrawler drawn better!

Anyway, what's going on with Kitty (Shadowcat)? The gang isn't doing anything to save her. Please let them do so very soon. The team's not the same without her.

Well, just thought I'd tell you guys what a great job you're doing — keep up the good work! I've been collecting since issue #1 and I'll stay with EXCALIBUR for as long as it goes! (Which should be a very loooooooooong time!)

Danny Gallagher  
(Address withheld upon request)

**Hope you're enjoying the current three-part story, Danny! And, as you know, Kitty is back where she belongs — with the gang.**

Dear Sword Strokes,

EXCALIBUR #31 was pretty good, but I would like to see the team fight a worthy opponent. I have a few questions to ask —

1. Will the team ever experience something like the "Cross-Time Caper" again?
2. How did Captain Britain gain his powers? I'm asking because in issue #29 you replied he was not a mutant.
3. Will Alan Davis ever return as EXCALIBUR's artist?
4. Will the former X-Men ever find out that the X-Men are alive?
5. What has happened to Sword Strokes? I haven't seen it in a while.

Also — BRING BACK KITTY!

Until Phoenix becomes a nun, make mine Marvel!

David Davidson  
Rt. 1, Box 289-6  
Zebulon, NC 27597

**Worthy opponent, huh? Does Doctor Doom qualify, David? Now let's get to your questions...**

Excalibur will most likely be staying put in their own time and dimension for now. Who knows what the future will bring, but after their far-flung adventures,

we expect them to want to stick around!

Captain Britain has actually had a number of origins. Issue #40 will recap EXCALIBUR's roots as well as the individual members' origins. Hope it helps!

As we already know, there certainly are proving to be a lot of Alan Davis fans out there!

As for the X-Men — just stay tuned... time should tell.

And, as you can see, Sword Strokes is up and running again!

Dear Sword Strokes,

"I'm just going to get this one," I told myself when I picked up EXCALIBUR #1, The Wolverines of London. Then I read it. I found myself drawn into the story by the wonderful plot and beautiful, lifelike drawings. I had to have the next issue.

And so it has been for the last two years. I read every issue, then wait eagerly and impatiently for the next one to come out. But what can you expect? With characters, stories, and drawings like these, it's a wonder I can actually wait a month for the next issue.

Shadowcat is by far my favorite character in this book. I idolize her. She is everything I would like to be. And if I were you, Kitty, I wouldn't be envious of Rachel's body. I would die to have yours!

Now, just a few more words of praise. I just recently got the EXCALIBUR Special Edition which started this book and I loved it. I've never seen anyone put more feeling into his drawings than Alan Davis.

That's all for now, guys. Keep up the great work!

So, until Lockheed turns green, make mine Marvel!

Kathy Oviatt  
(Address withheld by request)

**We couldn't have said it better ourselves, Kathy! Thanks! (With warm, glowing smiles on our faces!)**

**The news of Alan Davis's return must make you smile!**

